

Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-04 PER-05 M-02 A-01 /019 W

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R 111451Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8934

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER US SY

SUBJECT: RE-EMPLOYMENT OF FSL FOUAD GHAMYAN AT EMBASSY DAMASCUS

1. RESUMPTION OF FULL-SCALE US-SYRIAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS PROMPTS US TO CALL ATTENTION TO CASE OF FORMER EMBASSY DAMASCUS LOCAL EMPLOYEE FOUAD GHAMYAN, WHO CURRENTLY EMPLOYED AS PROGRAM ASSISTANT (FSL-1) IN OUR POLITICAL SECTION AND WHO ARDENTLY DESIRES RESUME HIS OLD JOB IN DAMASCUS. DEPT WILL RECALL THAT GHAMYAN WAS EMPLOYED BY USG IN SYRIA FROM 1942-67 (OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION 1942-46, EMBASSY DAMASCUS 1946-67), THAT HE WAS JAILED (ON BOGUS ESPIONAGE CHARGES) AND SEVERELY MISTREATED BY SARG FOR 2 MONTHS FOLLOWING JUNE WAR, AND THAT HE SUBSEQUENTLY SOUGHT REFUGE IN LEBANON AND FOUND EMPLOYMENT AT THIS EMBASSY SINCE OCT 1968.

2. GHAMYAN'S LAST POSITION WITH EMBASSY DAMASCUS WAS THAT OF TRANSLATOR/INTERPRETER SPECIALIST (FSL-1). HIS WORK PERFORMMMNCE SINCE COMING TO EMBASSY BEIRUT HAS BEEN ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY, AND HIS HEALTH--WHICH HAS SUFFERED CONSIDERABLY AS RESULT OF HIS INCARCERATION--HAS IMPROVED GREATLY. BORN IN 1912, GHAMYAN WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR RETIREMENT IN 1977 UNDER POLICIES FOLLOWED AT EMBASSY BEIRUT.

3. GHAMYAN HAS MADE KNOWN HIS STRONG DESIRE TO RESUME HIS FORMER EMPLOYMENT AT EMBASSY DAMASCUS. HE IS
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MOTIVATED BY FACT THAT HIS WIFE AND FOUR CHILDREN SILL

RESIDE IN THAT CITY, BY MEMORY OF HIS LONG AND HAPPY
(UNTIL 1967) SERVICE THERE, AND BY BELIEF (WHICH WE
SHARE) THAT HIS EXPERIENCE WILL BE OF GREATER BENEFIT
TO USG HERECFORTH IN DAMASCUS, RATHER THAN IN BEIRUT.
GHAMYAN ALSO BELIEVES THAT, IN VIEW RECENT DEVELOPMENTS,
HIS RETURN TO SYRIA AND RESUMPTION OF DUTIES AT EMBASSY
DAMASCUS WILL CAUSE NO RPT NO PROBLEMS WITH SARG.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: IN VIEW GHAMYAN'S LONG RECORD OF
FAITHFUL SERVICE WITH USG, NOT TO MENTION HIS PAST
SUFFERINGS ON THAT ACCOUNT, WE STRONGLY URGE DEPT
ESTABLISH PROGRAM POSITION, EFFECTIVE SOONEST AT
EMBASSY DAMASCUS AND THAT EMBASSY DAMASCUS ACCEPT GHAMYAN
FOR THIS NEW POSITION AT FSL-1 LEVEL.

DECON 6/19/75.
GODLEY

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